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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Caddo Indians: Tribes at the Convergence of Empires, 1542-1854 by F. Todd Smith, (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, John H. Lindsey Bldg., College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1995. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 229. Hardcover. \$24.50.

Despite their private role in southwestern history, the Caddos of East Texas and Louisiana have only now become the subject of a comprehensive chronicle. Elements of their saga have been available in various writings on regional history and ethnology, while two recent books present, respectively, Herbert Bolton's dated reconstruction of the southern Caddos and oral traditions from a modern tribe member, Vynola Newkumet. But Smith's volume is unitary, treating all three Caddoan confederacies – Hasinai, Kadohadacho, and Natchitoches – from DeSoto's time to removal. It is exquisitely researched and written, aside from a few minor mistakes in the early pages, and explains events from an Indian perspective while maintaining scholarly objectivity.

Smith shows how the three confederacies coordinated to survive and sometimes prosper by buffering competing colonial interests. Able diplomacy by leaders such as Tinhioüen and Dehahuit kept the Spanish, French, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans from antagonizing the Caddos and one another. The Texas Revolution brought an end to the balancing act; Smith's detailing of this period and its wrenching aftermath is especially valuable. Intertribal relations also get appropriate attention. The confederacies contended with Apaches, Osages, Choctaws, and Comanches, and between 1817 and 1834 the Cherokees were a worse threat to Hasinai security than Anglo-Americans. All told, this is a choice reference.

Daniel J. Gelo

University of Texas at San Antonio

The Last Voyage of El Nuevo Constante by Charles E. Pearson and Paul E. Hoffman (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, LA 70893) 1995. Bibliography. Index. P. 245. \$29.95. Hardcover. Black and White Photographs.

The subtitle of this book, *The Wreck and Recovery of an Eighteenth-century Spanish Ship off the Louisiana Coast*, is descriptive of its contents. Charles E. Pearson, director of the Cultural Resources Division at Coastal

Environments, Inc., a consulting firm in Baton Rouge, has joined Paul E. Hoffman, professor of history at Louisiana State University, to present this finely crafted book. It explores the fate of a Spanish ship caught in a hurricane and run aground on the Louisiana coast early in September 1766. Following the wreck, Spaniards attempted salvage operations with some success, but a substantial portion of *El Nuevo Constante's* cargo lay undisturbed until parts of it snagged the net of a shrimper in 1979.

Thus began an intriguing tale of recovering artifacts that included copper, gold, and silver ingots, as well as cannon, iron fittings, and Mexican ceramics. Aware that the vessel's remains lay in waters belonging to the state of Louisiana, and cognizant of the legal snares that had accompanied salvage efforts on Spanish ships sunk off the coasts of Texas and Florida, the shrimper and his Free Enterprise Salvage associates quickly and sensibly brought in the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Under the state agency's aegis, assessing the historic and archaeological importance of the discovery was placed in the hands of professionals, while the ship's discoverer and original salvagers received fair compensation.

Hoffman journeyed to the Archive of the Indies (Seville), where he found "an abundance of primary documents" (p. 99) relating to *El Nuevo Constante* and the 1766 fleet of which it had been a part. The reader is treated to the most exciting kind of historical research (detective work) and a thorough examination of Spanish sailing vessels. Along the way, one learns a good bit about the *carrera de Indias* (Spain's overall commerce with the Americas) from a text enhanced by seventy-six illustrations and six tables.

Donald E. Chipman
University of North Texas

Remember Goliad! by Craig H. Roell (The Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin, TX 78712) 1994. Notes. Black and White Photographs. P. 92. Papercover.

Remember Goliad! by native Victorian Craig H. Roell is the current addition to the Fred Rider Cotton Popular History Series published by the Texas State Historical Association. The book is a well-crafted, lucid narrative of the first 150 years of Nuestra Señora Santa Mariã de Loreto de la la Bahiã del Santo, popularly known as Presidio La Bahiã.

Roell recounts the establishment of the outpost on the ruins of Fort St. Louis, two miles from the mouth of Garcitas Creek in what currently is

Victoria County, and the subsequent removal of the presidio to its present location in Goliad County. Throughout the era of Spanish Texas the fort was a vital link between the interior of Mexico and the frontier settlements in East Texas. Because of its strategic position, the presidio was a target for a string of adventurous foreigners. Presidio La Bahía is remembered, however, as the site of the Goliad massacre during the Texas Revolution. Roell maintains that this infamous episode was the end product of several factors such as the military ineptness and personal shortcomings of James W. Fannin, the commander of Texas troops at the fort, and the Texans' lack of information on the movements of the Mexican force led by General Jose Urrea.

Although the volume does not break any new historical ground, *Remember Goliad!* is a worthwhile contribution to state and local history. Individuals who have a general interest in the state's heritage as well as scholars will find reading this book a profitable experience.

Charles Spurlin
Victoria College

Travels in the Confederate States: A Bibliography, by E. Merton Coulter (LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA 70893) 1994. Index. P. 289. \$14.95 Paper.

E. Merton Coulter's *Travels in the Confederate States*, published originally in 1948 as the first of several volumes on the South in the American Exploration and Travel Series, is far more than simply a bibliography of travelers' accounts. Casting his net as widely as possible, Coulter included diaries, collections of letters, autobiographies, and histories written by participants in the Civil War. Virtually everyone involved in or affected by the conflict – soldiers, prisoners of war, journalists, civilians, refugees, women, chaplains, surgeons, etc. – was given an opportunity to speak. Moreover, Coulter provided elaborate annotations for each entry, describing the role of the author in the war and, if possible, the travel route of each in the South. The annotations also offered critical analysis of the value and reliability of each account.

Louisiana State University Press has reprinted *Travels in the Confederate States* exactly as it was first published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Users should appreciate having complete titles and full bibliographic citations just as Coulter provided them. They should also use that information to read the source for themselves rather than accepting Coulter's annotation at face value. He measured most accounts, especially those written by Federal soldiers and prisoners of war, in terms of their "bitterness" toward the South

and apparently considered those that were the least bitter as the most unbiased.

Texas, because of its relatively remote location in the Confederacy, is not the subject of a large proportion of Coulter's entries. Only 51 from a total of 492 deal with visitors to the Lone Star State. However, no student of the Civil War in Texas could afford to overlook these sources, and Coulter's work provides a convenient and detailed guide and introduction. LSU Press is to be thanked for reprinting this bibliography as a relatively inexpensive paperback.

Randolph B. Campbell
University of North Texas

Rebel Private: Front and Rear – Memoirs of a Confederate by William Fletcher (Dutton: 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014) 1995. P. 225. \$22.95. Paper Cover.

Students of the American Civil War are familiar with William A. Fletcher's *Rebel Private: Front and Rear*. First published in 1908 by Greer Press of Beaumont, Texas, Fletcher's account of his experiences as an enlisted man in the Civil War has long been regarded as a classic in Civil War literature. In his introduction to a 1954 edition published by the University of Texas Press, the late Bell Wiley, the premier historian of the Confederate common soldier, declared that Fletcher's account is "one of the most satisfying memoirs of Confederate service" (p. xiii).

A native of Louisiana, Bill Fletcher was living in Beaumont where he was roofing a house when he heard the news of the firing on Fort Sumter. He immediately enlisted in Company F, Fifth Texas Infantry. After several delays he was on his way to Virginia where the Fifth Texas became part of the Texas brigade commanded by John Bell Hood. Fletcher's first battle experiences were in the Seven Days around Richmond, early in the summer of 1862. He was wounded seriously at Second Manassas later that summer but rejoined the regiment in time for the Battle of Fredericksburg. He saw action at Gettysburg and Chickamauga in 1863, but a wound in the Tennessee campaign forced him to transfer to cavalry service. He spent the remainder of the war with the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers) serving in Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

Fletcher's memoirs have been out of print for several years. Republication by a division of Penguin Books will make the classic once more available not only to Americans but British Commonwealth readers as well. An introduction by Civil War historian Richard Wheeler and an afterword by

great-granddaughter Vallie Fletcher Taylor provide additional personal information on this East Texas Confederate.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

Adventures of a Frontier Naturalist: The Life and Times of Dr. Gideon Lincecum, Jerry Bryan Lincecum and Edward Hake Phillips (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1994. B&W Photos. Notes. Index. P. 321. \$14.95 Paper. \$35.00 Hardcover.

Gideon Lincecum was a most extraordinary man. His lifetime adventures could keep a person spellbound and the incredible things he accomplished could fill many lifetimes. He is much like a Teddy Roosevelt with feelings, emotions, intellect, and experiences which mold his life and those around him. Much information is given on people, places, Indians, flora, fauna, and geography throughout the book, but especially on Texas from a scouting trip lasting several months during 1834-1835. Of great interest is the description of wildlife, especially the whooping cranes and geese, along the Texas coast, and deer hunting and fishing inland. From journals Lincecum wrote as he explored, the reader can learn how to kill any animal (deer, bear, fish, etc.) in his description of proven techniques of the time, and descriptions of the wild goose "language" and the market for venison in settlements on the Texas frontier give a dimension not found in many accounts.

Lincecum, the oldest child of Hezekial and Sally Hickman Lincecum, lived the life of a western pioneer, moving with his family constantly until he and his family arrived in Texas in 1847. This book does not include much of his life in Texas but does discuss his support of the Confederacy during the Civil War and his move to Mexico for a brief time after the war. While in Mexico he continued his investigative studies, especially of aboriginal life in the area.

Of great value are the accounts of Indians (especially the Choctaw or Chahtas in Mississippi), including their nature, livelihood, tribal descriptions, language, treatment, medicine, and movement west. Interwoven in this is Lincecum's study of medicine, including his practices of the "old school" and conversion to the "steam doctor" or Botanical medicine.

The editors do an excellent job of following four major sources of Lincecum's writings to inform the reader of pertinent things. Exhaustive work was done to prove or disprove Lincecum's facts. Using census records, the

editors attempt to locate every person mentioned in the journals. They corresponded with many historians on topics and events to establish credibility for the reader, even if doing so sheds doubt at times. This was important to Jerry Bryan Lincecum since he is a direct descendent to the writer. A large part of the book does not deal with Texas, but it is a must for Texana enthusiasts. What happened in Lincecum's life happened to a large percent of people who came into Texas during the nineteenth century. It is more documented than other Texas memoirs and recollections of the same time frame and describes the "true intellect" that A.C. Greene calls him in the Foreward.

Linda Cross
Tyler Jr. College

The Hungarian Texans, by James Patrick McGuire (University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 801 S. Bowie, San Antonio, TX 79205-3296) 1993. B&W Photos. Notes. Bibliography. Photo Credits. Index. P. 312. \$14.95 Paper. \$23.95 Hardcover.

The Hungarian Texans, James Patrick McGuire's history of this ethnic minority in Texas, the first of its kind, is synthetic and descriptive. The author and his research associates resolve the difficulties of a multiplicity of languages and sources, and spellings and sounds strange to the American ear. The relatively small number of Hungarian immigrants to Texas before the Hungarian Revolution 1956 precludes McGuire from analyzing and writing about them in the traditional sociological format that is associated with several recent examinations of German Texans.

McGuire, rather, weaves the chronological, biographical, and genealogical strands together about this people. The many stories about numerous individuals and families capture the essence of Hungarian immigration to Texas. It came in four distinctive segments: a few scattered individuals during the Texas Republic; the political refugees from the failed Revolution of 1848; the economic pioneers of the 1880s and 1890s; and, finally, the refugees escaping from the ruins of World War II and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. They generally drifted to the larger cities and became artisans, craftsmen, and mechanics. Many, however, farmed or worked in the East Texas lumber industry. Unlike some other, more numerous immigrant groups to Texas during the last 160 years, the people of all four Hungarian immigrant eras rapidly assimilated the language and dominant social characteristics of Texas. They have quickly blended into the Lone Star community.

The Hungarian Texans avoids being a recapitulation of anecdotal vignettes about lone-ago immigrant days. McGuire captures the singular, melancholic sense of this peculiar people, one who lamented that his Anglo-American neighbors could not hear the "song" of his spirit. Within the constraints of strange-sounding and strange-looking names and places, the author has produced a very well-researched and generally well-written work that fulfills its role of a beginning primer for the study of Hungarian Texans.

Melvin C. Johnson
Texas Forestry Museum

Black Texas Women, Ruthe Winegarten (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) Feb. 1995. B&W Photos. Index. Paper. \$24.95. P. 301. Notes.

The historical study of Texas women, particularly black women, is a neglected area. Ruthe Winegarten's interest in the study of black women evolved from the *Texas Women – A Celebration of History* museum exhibit that toured the state for two years in the 1980s. Ruthe Winegarten researched African-American Texas women, and she wrote *Black Texas Women* to illustrate the prolonged and continuing struggle of minority women against oppressive institutions and people. While combating both racial and sexual discrimination, black women built homes, developed strong communities, and had careers. Winegarten focused the attention of her study on women who took initiatives in the public sphere, and she provided information from the perspective of black women by writing brief paragraphs about their lives.

The book reveals the struggles of black women from their arrival to the area in the colonial period to their current struggles. Until recently, most black women in Texas worked in domestic labor. During the Republic period, the Texas government tried to expel all free blacks. However, many free black women petitioned for their residency and maintained their importance in society by being seamstresses, washerwomen, and cooks. After suffering under the institution of slavery, black women attempted to reconstruct families and develop communities through involvement in churches and missionary societies. Under the Freedmen's Bureau, schools for black children and adults were opened, and many were run by black women. Teaching became the sole profession that black women could enter that was not labor intensive. Recently, African-American women have made careers for themselves as doctors, lawyers, artists, astronauts, politicians, and actresses. In this book,

Ruthe Winegarten successfully demonstrated the continuing rise of black Texas women.

Karen Heinefield
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Court Martial of Lieutenant Henry Flipper, Charles M. Robinson, III (Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968-0633) 1994. B&W Photos. Notes. Bibliography. P. 130. \$12.50 Paper.

On June 14, 1877 Henry Ossian Flipper graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. What distinguished lieutenant Flipper from his classmates was that he was an African American, the first to graduate from West Point, and a former slave. Four years later Flipper was accused of embezzling funds under his supervision, court martialed, found guilty of “conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman” (p. 21), and dismissed from the U.S. Army. In *The Court Martial of Lieutenant Henry Flipper*, Charles M. Robinson surveys Flipper’s brief military career and details his arrest and trial. Robinson argues that Flipper was a victim, both of an army that was not ready for black officers and a commanding officer who provided his young officer with inadequate guidance and supervision, and then, largely because of racial bias, overreacted to what were really rather minor failures in Flipper’s conduct of his office.

As the title of this book suggests, Robinson focuses on the trial itself. Using trial transcripts supplemented by newspaper accounts and Flipper’s memoirs, Robinson reconstructs testimony and the arguments of the prosecution and defense. He concludes that in spite of the racism of the late nineteenth century, Flipper got a fair trial – he was acquitted on the charge of embezzlement but found guilty of the more ambiguous charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman; the injustice was not the verdict but the sentence – dismissal from the military was out of line with the penalties assessed other officers found guilty of similar offenses.

Robinson effectively reconstructs the trial of Lieutenant Flipper. While we wish that Robinson had been more ambitious and had linked the trial and its appeals more closely with other developments in late nineteenth century African American history, we can find no fault with the conclusions or the methodology of this convincingly argued and well written little book.

Cary Wintz
Texas Southern University

Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket, Number 15 in The W.L. Moody, Jr., Natural History Series, by Howard Peacock (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1994. Foreword by Maxine Johnston. Maps. Sketches. Black-and-White Photographs. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 169. \$12.95.

If I felt that I needed a guide for a tour of the Big Thicket, I would hire Howard Peacock, the author of the *Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket*, or Maxine Johnston, who wrote the preface. They are both long-time Nature Lovers and Thicket Lovers who have tramped the baygalls and bayous of that southeast Texas natural phenomenon from one end to the other and who have fought in the Thicket's battles for survival since the fray began back in the early Sixties.

And if Howard and Maxine cannot go when you want to, all you need is Howard's handy-dandy almost-pocket size *Nature Lover's Guide*. It contains everything you need to know about Thicket life, whether you are a first timer or old timer in the Big Woods. Trees, birds, plants, and animals: if it jumps at you or crawls up your leg, you can identify and make friends with it with the aid of Howard's book.

Howard introduces the Big Thicket as America's Ark because of its plentitude of plant and animal life. He identifies 3,500,000 acres as the "Primitive Big Thicket Region," a size and area that seem to me much too large and diverse to lump into one category. But he comes back to reality when he discusses the present-day nearly 100,000-acre Big Thicket Natural Preserve. He divides the Thicket into its ten habitats or ecosystems and leads the reader on a tour of the biology, geology, and geography of each one. If you have paid any attention at all, you will have a good understanding of Big Thicket habitat by the end of Chapter II.

Howard is at his best leading a tour. He talks with an understanding and a gentle smile, recognizing that his listeners do not have his biological education and his background years of wandering through the Thicket.

In Chapter II Howard takes you to each of the nine units of the present Big Thicket National Preserve. He shows you how to get to each of the units, and then he tells you what to look for once you get there. He has special chapters on the trees, plants, and animals. He tells you where to look and, with photographs and drawings, how to recognize what you see.

If you wish to do more than tramp around, Howard has included a chapter on recreational activities, such as camping, canoeing, hunting, and fishing – where to camp and where to put in for a canoe trip, how to fish and where to hunt.

He has also included a chapter on nearby nature attractions: the Larsen

Sandyland Sanctuary, Sea Rim State Park, and other tours, nature trails, and national forests.

The Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket is a mini-encyclopedia for the naturalist who wishes to learn more about these big woods of southeast Texas. And you could not get a better teacher than Howard Peacock.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

Mr. McCamey - Claude W. Brown: The Life of a Texas Oilman, by Robert Nash and Peggy Nichols Nash (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735) 1994. Black & White Photographs. Few Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 98. \$14.95 Hardcover.

This little book of popular history spans the seventy-year career of West Texas oilman, Claude Wilson Brown. Although he referred to himself as "a roustabout from McCamey," Brown was born December 7, 1904, in Coleman County, Texas. His first introduction to the economic promise of the oil industry came through a much-needed division order from an assignment inherited by his mother in 1916. After graduating from Ballinger High School in 1922, Brown went to work for his uncle, J.K. Hughes Oil Company, as a roustabout in the Mexia field. He worked his way to the position of production superintendent, learning the business. When Hughes sold his company in 1928, Brown and a friend, Ben Crowder, bought a rotary rig to drill on their own. After Crowder was killed and the Great Depression hit, Brown lost his business. In 1935 he went to McCamey to work as a cable-tool driller for Dave Duncan on one tour and as an independent oil-field parts dealer on a second shift. By 1937 he had quit drilling and opened Brown Pipe and Supply Company, which expanded to six locations by 1940. From the supply company he branched into drilling and pipeline businesses. Eventually, Brown moved into banking, a car dealership, and real estate.

As a successful businessman, Brown turned to philanthropic and political interests. He gave his time and money to the Methodist church and to the Democratic Party. Brown also helped individuals, especially minorities, to make good starts in education and business. He was portrayed in the book as one who cared about people. Brown received several local and regional awards for his endeavors.

The book, written by journalists who said they knew Brown for forty years, cannot be offered as a scholarly work. Although the authors stated that

they based their efforts on interviews with Brown and his family and on Brown's personal papers, neither the interviews nor the papers were cited. In fact, only six of the fourteen chapters carried any citations and those attempted to document events other than Brown's experiences. For those who enjoy seeing the names of West Texans in print or reading episodic narratives about Texas oil fields, this book meets their expectations.

The title of the book suggests that it is the biography of Claude W. Brown, however, it is actually a superficial Texas oil history, giving as much attention to its own pseudo-epic style as it does to Brown's career. Perhaps, the man who tried to build a better McCamey, Texas, than he found in 1935 deserved an in-depth study of the events and results of his generous civic contributions and successful business ventures. It is certain that the petroleum history of the Permian Basin does.

Julia Cauble Smith
University of Texas-Permian Basin

Bob Kleberg and the King Ranch: A Worldwide Sea of Grass, by John Cypher
(University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Tx 78713-7819) 1995.
B&W Photos. \$27.95. Hardcover. P. 239.

Edna Ferber was a guest of the Klebergs while she was writing her novel, *Giant*. She could not have chosen a better place than King Ranch to understand and absorb the atmosphere, culture, mentality, values, and vastness of large cattle operations. King Ranch was (and is) a world unto itself. The story of King Ranch can be found elsewhere. This book is largely a biography of Bob Kleberg, the guiding genius behind the twentieth-century greatness of the ranch, as told by the best person for the job. John Cypher was Kleberg's right-hand man through which all of his ideas and directives flowed, from procurement of Scotch whiskey to arranging meetings with foreign heads of state. Cypher not only writes well but he is a great story teller and gives the reader probably the best of what will ever be known of the inner Bob Kleberg.

It was not enough that Kleberg developed the first American breed of beef cattle and perfected a world-renowned dynasty of quarter horses. He had to do more. The vast King Ranch spread, under lease to Humble Oil Company, provided the capitalization for exporting Santa Gertrudis agribusiness overseas. Eventually there would be King Ranches in Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Spain, and Morocco. While most of these now have been liquidated and Bob Kleberg has passed on, the King Ranch in South Texas remains one

of the state's proudest entities. This book is recommended to all who are interested in bigger than life personalities, cattle ranching, and horses.

Bob Glover
Flint, Texas

Texas Siftings, Jerry Flemmons (Texas Christian University, Box 30776, Fort Worth, Texas 76129) 1995. Brown and White Photos. Papercover. P. 187. \$12.95.

Jerry Flemmons, a Texan's Texan and journalist in many forms, borrows his title from a magazine published in Austin in 1881 by Alexander Sweet. Like seining for minnows, dry panning for gold, or catching bits and pieces in the sink drain, Flemmons found Texas-stuff "browsing-sifting-in old Texas books and publications." There are prayers – "Goodbye, God. This will be the last chance I get to talk to you. We're moving to Texas;" recipes – how to cook a rattlesnake and four ways to make coffee without coffee; definitions – "A Texan ain't nothing but a human being way out on a limb;" phrases – "Pert night, but not plumb;" letters – a Texas Ranger writes to his mother from a Mexico City prison in 1843 just before he is hanged; observations – Steinbeck's "Like most passionate nations, Texas has its own history based on, but not limited by, facts;" instructions – how to skin a buffalo; and maxims, sayings, poetry, tales, wisdom, wit, diary entries, and stories – one about an unknown Comanche brave who "rode through a prairie fire to rescue a white girl."

As Flemmons says, "We are a wordy bunch," but he has found the best, the worst, the funniest, the saddest, the truest of all the words ever gathered together about Texas. and he says, "If [the] story is romanticized, and it often is filtered through our mythology, so be it. Aggrandizement is an old Texas habit, though I, as many others, believe that the state really is larger than life." The subtitle of the book declares, "A bold and uncommon celebration of the Lone Star state," and indeed it is!

Joyce Gibson Roach
Keller, Texas

WAG: The Story of Texas Coaching Legend Floyd Wagstaff, by Bob Bowman (Tyler Junior College, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711). 1994. B&W Photographs. P. 112.

On a hot August morning in 1974 I waited patiently for the last of my students to finish their final exams, ending another semester of American History. I noticed one young man in particular who agonized over his answers, rethinking, changing some and finally, having done his best, turned in his paper and left. As he exited the back door of Jenkins Hall he saw a man lying unconscious near the curb. The young student, a Vietnam veteran, applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and probably saved the life of Coach Floyd Wagstaff. I have often wondered what a few more, or less, questions on that exam would have made in the life of one of East Texas' greatest coaching legends.

It is a pleasure to review Bob Bowman's biography of Wag because the coach is a personal friend of mine as well as a colleague of some twenty-five years standing. The biography would be well-warranted on the strength of Wag's coaching career at Tyler Junior College; a record that is outstanding by national collegiate standards. But, Wag is so much more than just a successful coach: he is quite simply one of the great human products of East Texas. He is a philosopher, counsellor, wit, and possesses more common sense in his little finger than most of us acquire in a lifetime. Further, he has that rare gift of being a great story teller.

Bowman has done an admirable job of bring out these human qualities in his subject. The book is organized topically around the major events in Wag's life, there being some twenty-three chapters or, vignette chapters. There are numerous photographs throughout depicting relatives, winning teams, and others who touched his life. Chapter twenty-two, one of my favorites, is on the wit and wisdom of Wagstaff.

Everyone who loves East Texas, sports, and the better angels of this region should add this biography of Floyd Wagstaff to **their** library.

Robert W. Glover
Shiloh ranch

Texas Forgotten Ports, Vol III, Keith Guthrie. (Eakin Press, P.O. Drawer 90159, Austin, TX 78790-0159), 1995. Black and White Photos. Index. Notes. Bibliography. P. 300. \$22.95. Hardcover.

In his third volume dealing with early Texas river ports, Keith Guthrie has compiled a valuable collection of historical information relating to East Texas. Covering ports along the Trinity, Neches, Angelina, and Sabine rivers, Guthrie highlights the economic importance of nineteenth-century river traffic, identifies numerous steamboats and their captains, and chronicles the rise and fall of more than twenty-five river villages and landings. In addition, the author recounts many amusing tales relating to the frontier river towns and the colorful Texans who populated them.

By way of the river ports and the boats that served them, East Texas was linked to the outside world, exporting cotton and lumber, and importing needed manufactured goods. Many of the early ports, such as Sebastopol, Wiess' Bluff, and Belgrade, have long since disappeared, while a few such as Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange have survived to become significant maritime centers.

Guthrie's book includes a number of historical maps showing the locations of the river towns and landings. However, it would have been helpful if the author could have provided a comprehensive map showing the East Texas region, its network of river transportation, and its connections with Galveston and New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico ocean traffic.

Guthrie, a retired newspaperman, has written five other books dealing with Texas history and folklore. This new volume, loaded with facts and anecdotes, is almost encyclopedic in nature. When consulted in combination with the excellent index, the book will be interesting and useful to students of East Texas history.

Robert J. Robertson
Beaumont, Texas

The Viewpoints of Stanley Marcus; A Ten-Year Perspective, by Stanley Marcus (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203-6856) 1995. P. 261. Hardcover. \$24.95.

It is trite to say that someone "is a legend in his own time," but how else may Stanley Marcus be characterized? He recently (1995) celebrated his 90th birthday, hale and hearty in body and mind; he is, without doubt, still the

world's best known Dallasite, and although he had been out of retail operations for several years, his voice still carries great respect in the international fashion business. (And as a consultant, so does his fee!) But first and foremost, Stanley Marcus is a salesman. One of the more delightful essays in this book is his "The Lost Art of Salesmanship." He is not dogmatic, but he is definite. That alone puts him in a higher category than most essayists or editorial writers (I was one). But Mr. Stanley is also a good writer.

Stanley Marcus has carried on his weekly column in *The Dallas Morning News* for ten years and has never suffered an editorial change (i.e. censorship). For anyone who has ever written a newspaper column that information is both envious and astounding. But back to the product(s) on hand: naturally, these essays are mainly about changing methods and manners in American culture and business. But do not turn away at the word "business." Remember, Neiman Marcus was not developed as a "business;" it grew from an idea. Ideas are what Stanley Marcus projects over and over in this book. Read carefully, these essays will teach even a mediocre professor (what? there is such?) to become more effective.

A.C. Greene
Salado, Texas

Hobart Huson: A Texas Coastal Bend Trilogy, by Hobart Huson (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1994. B&W Photographs. Notes. Index. P. 159. \$24.95 Hardcover.

Kathleen Huson Maxwell, daughter of the well-known attorney and historian from Refugio, Texas, has edited a trilogy of her father's histories of that part of the South Texas Gulf Coast known as Coastal Bend. Two of them are welcome reprints of Huson's accounts of the settlements of two once-important Texas ports – El Copano and St. Mary's. There is also a previously unpublished manuscript about two captains, both named Johnson, their families, and their friends who lived and worked on St. Joseph's Island and in the towns of Lamar and Rockport. Hundreds of families are mentioned in Huson's trilogy, making this a useful source for genealogists with South Texas roots.

In the section entitled "El Capano," the author discusses the evidence of early Spanish and French exploration of the area, the securing of grants from Mexico by two early *empresarios* who brought settlers to Texas from Ireland, and the landing of the Mexican army under General Martín de Cós at El Capano in 1835, which Huson suggests marked "the first overt act of war" and

thus the beginning of the Texas Revolution (p. 71). The growth of the towns of St. Mary's and Rockport, along with the problem of inadequate water supplies, led to the decline and death of the community of El Capano by the 1800s.

In "St. Mary's of Aransas," Huson tells of the railroad promoter and his efforts to develop a railroad connection and a turnpike for the port of Lamar, and then how the town of St. Mary's was founded and grew to become an important center for the importation and re-shipment of lumber and other building materials to West Texas. Huson describes the political development of the area, the important leaders, and the prominent families.

Texas historians and genealogists will welcome this trilogy as an important source of information about the early history and peoples of the Coastal Bend area.

Naaman J. Woodland, Jr.
Beaumont, Texas

A Political Education, Harry McPherson (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819), Black and White Photographs. Index. P. 495. Paper.

This book, first published in 1972, was re-released in paperback this year. The author is a native Texan who graduated from The University of Texas School of Law in 1956 and immediately took a job as a legal aide to Lyndon Johnson, who was then Senate majority leader. McPherson stayed with Johnson until the latter became vice president at which time the author was given a job at the Pentagon. This was followed by a stint in the Department of State which lasted until 1965. With Johnson in the White House, McPherson was asked to become Special White House Counsel and, of course, he accepted. He remained with the president until 1969, then joined a private law firm in Washington where he remains today.

For its perceptive character sketches of leading politicians, for its insider's view of American government at work, for its dispassionate analysis of the domestic and foreign policy issues that beset the nation during the late 1950s and 1960s, this is "a must read" for serious students of American political history. Unlike the usual memoir, it is not self-serving in any way. The author admits his own biases and errors of judgment even as he critiques the actions of others. The narrative is compelling, drawing the reader into itself and creating a sense of involvement in the events described.

This new edition contains a Preface written in 1993 and a Postscript, written in 1988. The former compares the Washington of Johnson's day with the present and suggests that despite the monumental differences, Bill Clinton could learn much from the Johnson presidency. The Postscript contains a brief summary of presidential politics since 1969, including a needless savaging of Jimmy Carter. It concludes with the assumption that Michael Dukakis would win the election of 1988. It is weak and probably should not have been written, but it does not detract significantly from the overall value of the book.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr.
Midwestern State University

A Pictorial History of Sabine County, Texas, Robert Cecil McDaniel (Texian Press, Waco, Texas 76073) 1994. B&W Photographs. Index. P. 286. Hardcover.

If "One picture is worth ten thousand words," according to the old Chinese Proverb, what must be the worth of 530 pictures? In excess of five million words, by quick calculation, which should be enough to tell one a lot about over a century of life and progress in a deep East Texas county. Such is the case of a new, colorfully jacketed picture book about the "Big Thicket" area along the Sabine River where it separates Texas from Louisiana. The photographs, ninety percent of which are half-page glossy and the rest full page, begin with Hemphill, the county seat, and continue through the towns of Pineland, Bronson, and "Other pioneer communities around Sabine County." They include court houses, past and present, county officials, former grand juries, the venerable old county jail, street scenes, outside and inside shots of businesses old and new, and numerous pioneer homes. Photos of Temple Lumber Co., the county's leading industry, make up a major portion of the book with many shots of their mills, offices, lumber yards, and employeecs. There is even a shot of a sizable "moonshine" operation, one of the county's smaller industries.

Many scenes are of early modes of transportation, beginning with ox teams, mule wagons, horses and buggies, and extending to early day automobiles. Included is the "School Train" that transported high school students from East Mayfield to Hemphill. Other photos are of church, school, and lodge groups, syrup mills, cotton gins, family groups, a 1930s CCC camp, bridges, ferries, and a full-page aerial photograph of the town of Hemphill in 1994. More than 2800 individuals are shown with names of each in captions and in the index.

There are photos of a dozen or more steam locomotives, logging trains, and various other aspects of large-scale lumbering. There are more pictures of other saw mills and their supporting operations. Log hauling from ox teams through mules to modern trucks is depicted in many photos.

Some of what is shown pictorially is now lost forever under the waters of huge Toledo Bend Reservoir. This includes the towns of Fairdale, Robinson Bend, Sabintown, and Pendleton. There are present and past photos of McMahan's Chapel, considered to be the oldest Protestant church in Texas. It is still on dry land having escaped the waters of Toledo Bend.

Robert C. McDaniel is to be commended for his efforts in compiling this unique collection of old photographs for the benefit of present and future generations. Pictorial records such as this play an important role in recording an area's historical past.

Fred McKenzie
Avinger, Texas